



DARK NIGHTS

1

BATMAN

THE RED DEATH

metal
tie-in



DARK NIGHTS

1

BATMAN™

THE RED DEATH

TEEN
TEEN



Williamson
Di Giandomenico
Plascencia

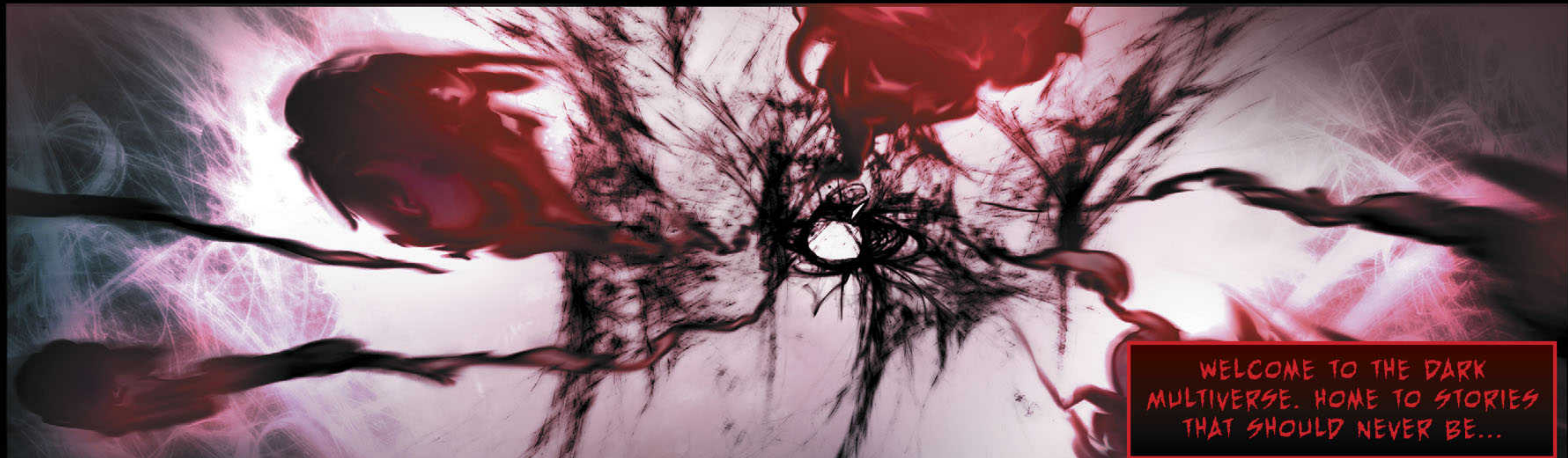
STOP ME IF YOU'VE HEARD THIS ONE...

...WORLDS WILL
LIVE, WORLDS
WILL DIE...

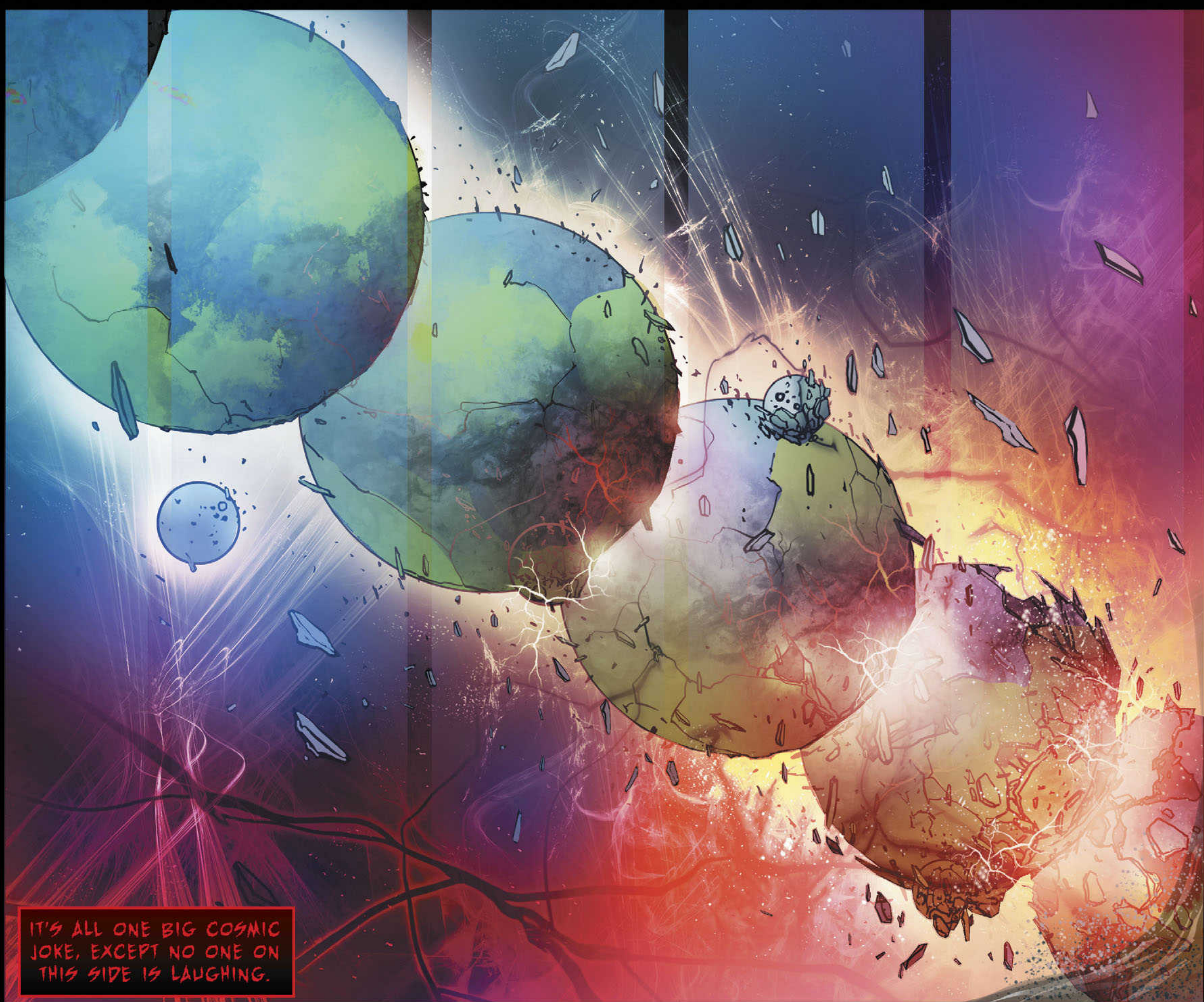
BUT IMAGINE IF YOUR
EVERY FEAR, EACH BAD
DECISION, GAVE BIRTH
TO A MALFORMED WORLD
OF NIGHTMARE.

A WORLD THAT SHOULDN'T
EXIST. AND DESPERATE AS
IT FIGHTS TO SURVIVE IN
THE LIGHT OF THE TRUE
MULTIVERSE FAR ABOVE...

THESE WORLDS ARE
DOOMED TO ROT APART,
AND DIE, BECAUSE THEY
ARE **WRONG** AT THEIR
CORE.



WELCOME TO THE DARK
MULTIVERSE. HOME TO STORIES
THAT SHOULD NEVER BE...



IT'S ALL ONE BIG COSMIC
JOKE, EXCEPT NO ONE ON
THIS SIDE IS LAUGHING.

...WELL,
ALMOST NO
ONE...

LISTEN CLOSE, NOW.
THIS IS A STORY OF A
WORLD'S END, AND A
WORLD TRANSFORMED.

WITNESS
THE RISE OF A
DARK KNIGHT.

BATMAN

THE RED DEATH
IN
**RIDE THE
LIGHTNING**

WRITER: JOSHUA WILLIAMSON ART: CARMINE DI GIANDOMENICO
COLORS: IVAN PLASCENCIA LETTERS: TOM NAPOLITANO
COVER: JASON FABOK AND DEAN WHITE
VARIANT COVER: RICCARDO FEDERICI
ASSISTANT EDITOR: ANDREW MARINO EDITOR: EDDIE BERGANZA
SPECIAL THANKS TO SCOTT SNYDER AND JAMES TYNION IV
BATMAN CREATED BY BOB KANE WITH BILL FINGER

Earth-52.

IT'S
GETTING
WORSE!

CENTRAL
CITY IS COMING
APART!



A full-page comic book illustration of Batman standing amidst the wreckage of a building. He is wearing his tactical suit and cowl, holding a glowing blue sword in his right hand and a glowing blue gauntlet in his left. The background is a chaotic scene of fire, smoke, and falling debris. The lighting is dramatic, with bright orange and yellow flames contrasting with the dark, smoky environment. Batman's expression is serious and determined.

AS
USUAL, YOU'RE
ALREADY *LATE*,
FLASH.

IT'S
TIME YOU
LET SOMEONE
ELSE HAVE
THE SPEED
FORCE.



BATMAN,
I TOLD
YOU!

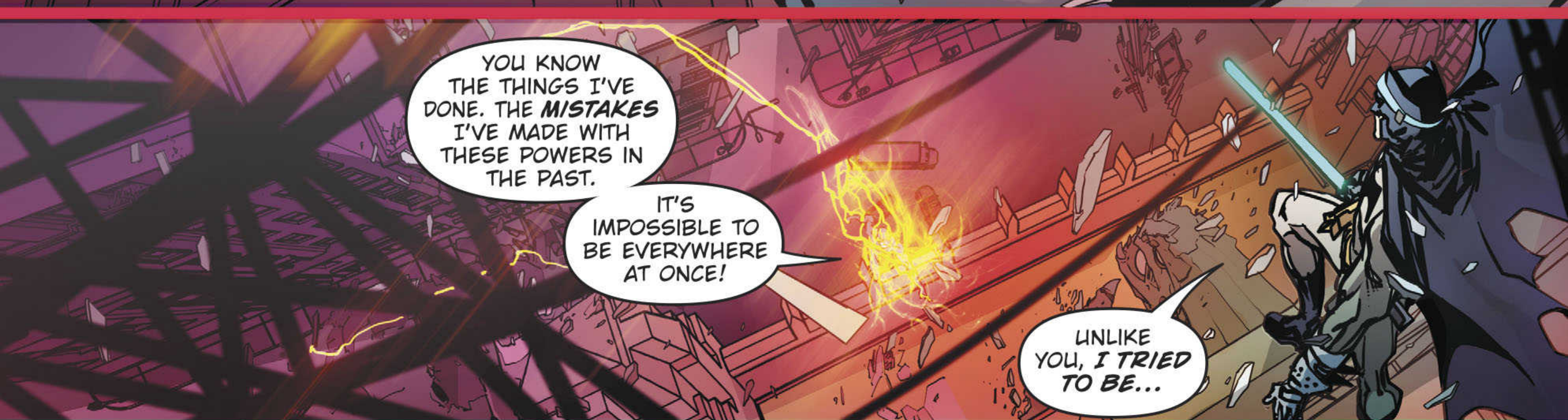
I WON'T
GIVE YOU
THE SPEED
FORCE.

I'VE LOST
PEOPLE I
LOVED, TOO,
BUT...



THEN
YOU SHOULD
UNDERSTAND!

IF YOU
DON'T HELP
ME WILLINGLY...
I'LL MAKE
YOU!



YOU KNOW
THE THINGS I'VE
DONE. THE *MISTAKES*
I'VE MADE WITH
THESE POWERS IN
THE PAST.

IT'S
IMPOSSIBLE TO
BE EVERYWHERE
AT ONCE!

UNLIKE
YOU, I TRIED
TO BE...



"...AND IT COST
ME MY FAMILY!"



USING ONE
OF MIRROR
MASTER'S
OLD TRICKS...
REALLY?



ALL
THE *ROGUES'*
WEAPONS, WHY DO YOU
THINK *YOU'LL* SUCCEED
WITH THEM AGAINST
ME, WHEN *THEY*
COULDN'T?

YOU'RE
RIGHT--





YOU CAN'T TURN BACK THE CLOCK!

WHOOSH



I'M SORRY FOR WHAT HAPPENED TO YOUR FAMILY. I AM. BUT IT WON'T END THERE.

WE HAVE TO FIGURE OUT HOW TO SAVE EVERYONE... EVERYTHING... TOGETHER.

YOU'RE RIGHT...

YOU'RE A GOOD FRIEND, FLASH.

I COULD ALWAYS COUNT ON YOU...

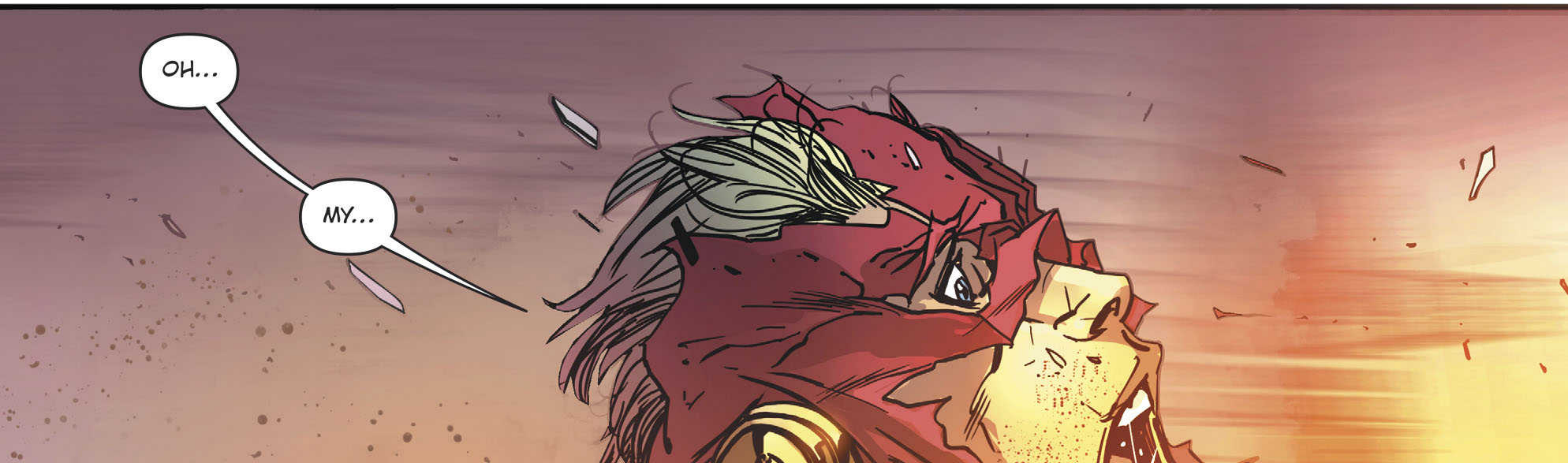
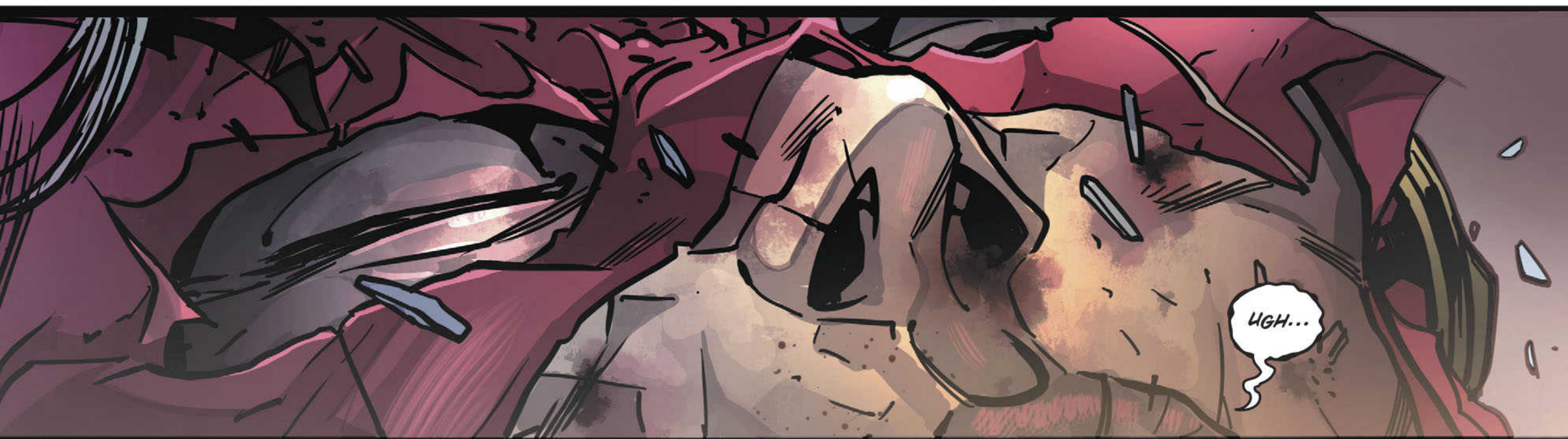


AND YOUR COMPASSION.



YOU'VE JUST BEEN INJECTED WITH THE **CRYOSTASIS** FORMULA DEVELOPED BY DR. VICTOR FRIES. IT'S WHAT HE USES TO KEEP HIS BELOVED NORA ALIVE.

I ESTIMATE YOUR INCREASED METABOLISM SHOULD **BURN** IT OFF IN **THREE SECONDS**.





GOD!

WHAT ARE YOU DOING?!

I STUDIED YOUR DESIGNS FOR THE COSMIC TREADMILL AND REPURPOSED ITS ENGINE TO LET ME HARNESS YOUR CONNECTION TO THE SPEED FORCE!



I WILL RACE INTO THE SPEED FORCE... AND STEAL IT FROM YOU!

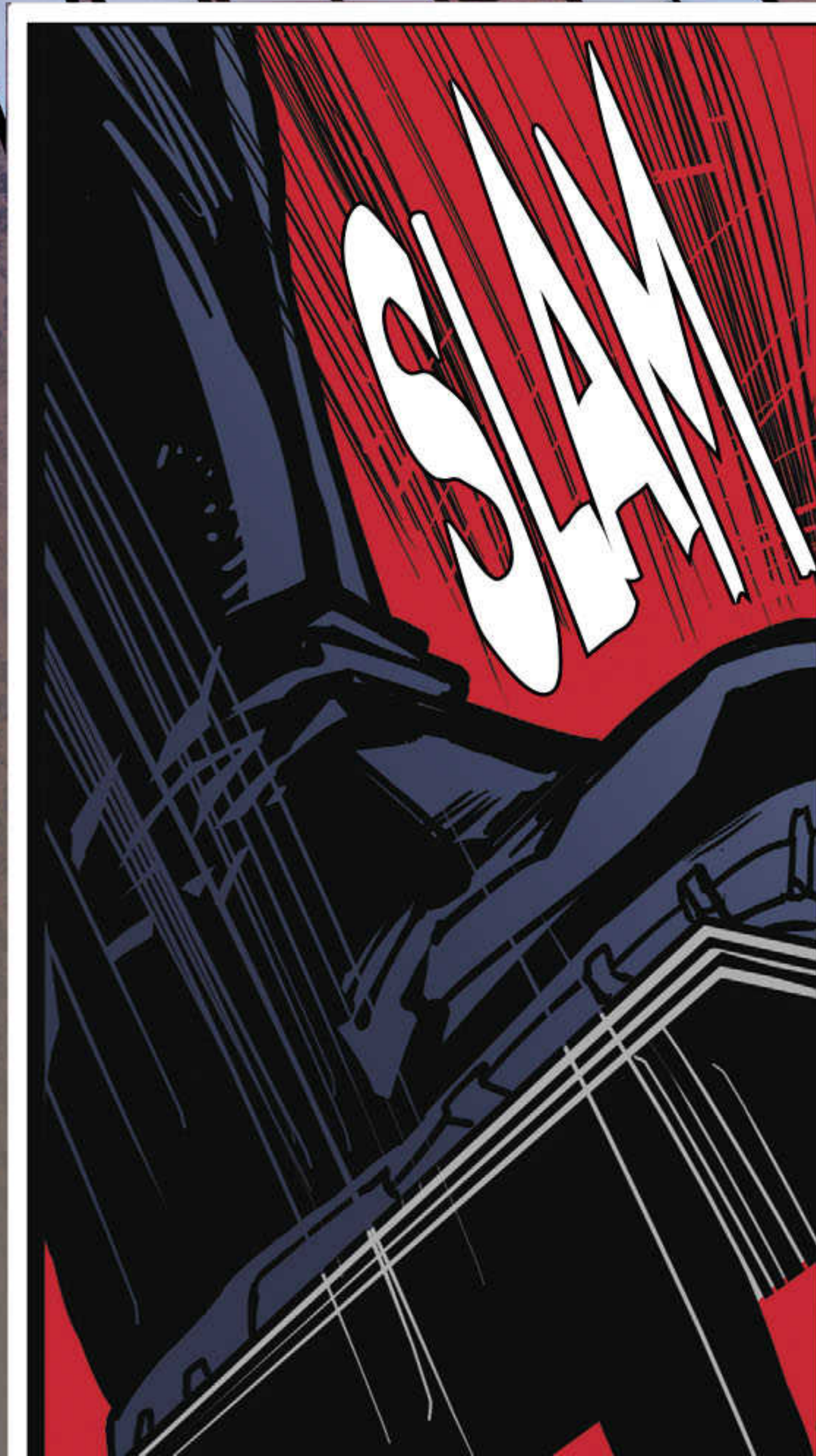


BRUCE... DON'T...?



THE MISTAKE I MADE WHEN I VOWED TO MY PARENTS THAT I WOULD SAVE GOTHAM IS THAT I WAS THINKING TOO SMALL.

I SHOULD HAVE PROMISED TO SAVE THE WORLD.



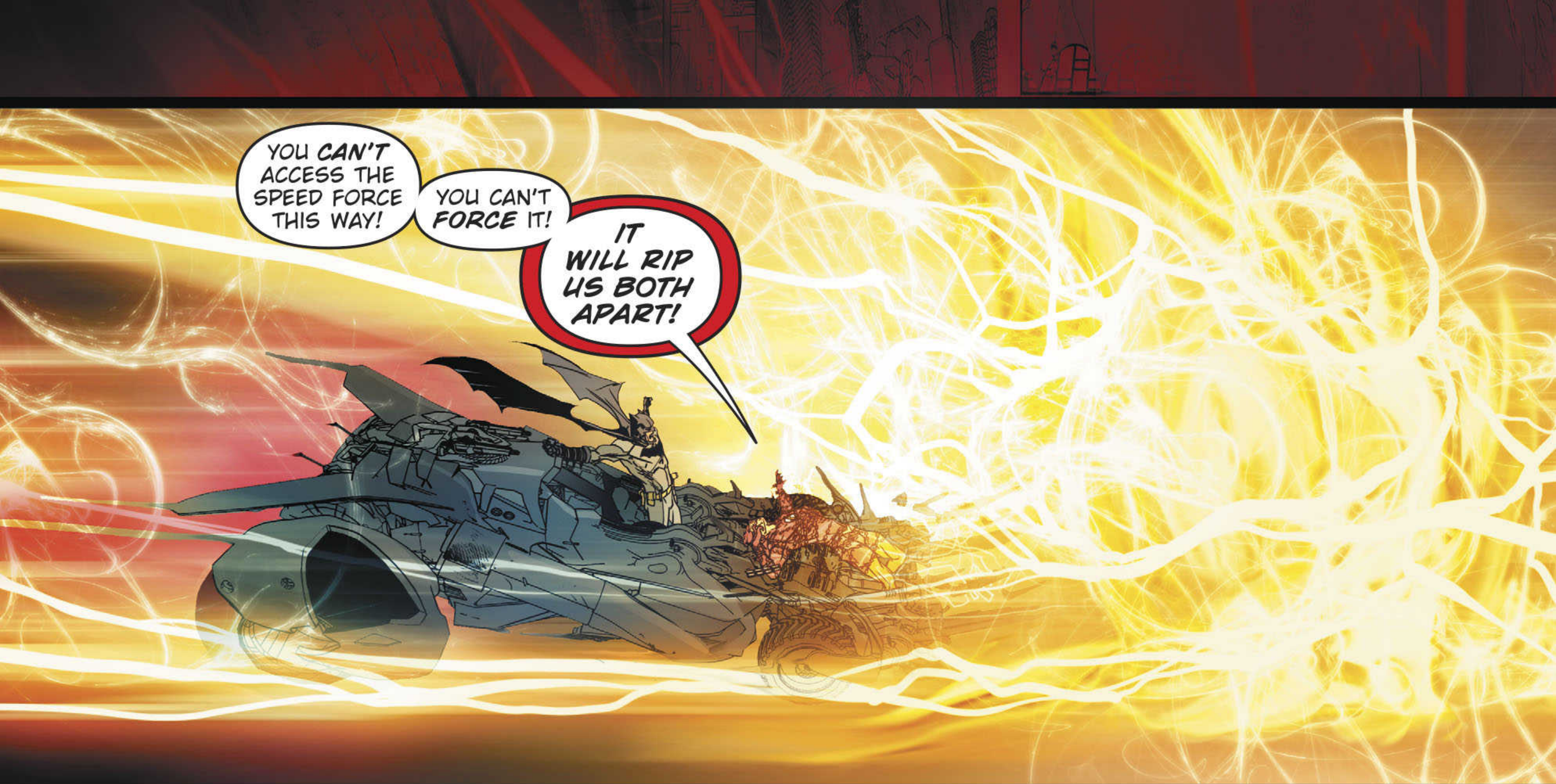
SLAM



WHOOSH



BOOM



YOU CAN'T
ACCESS THE
SPEED FORCE
THIS WAY!

YOU CAN'T
FORCE IT!

IT
WILL RIP
US BOTH
APART!



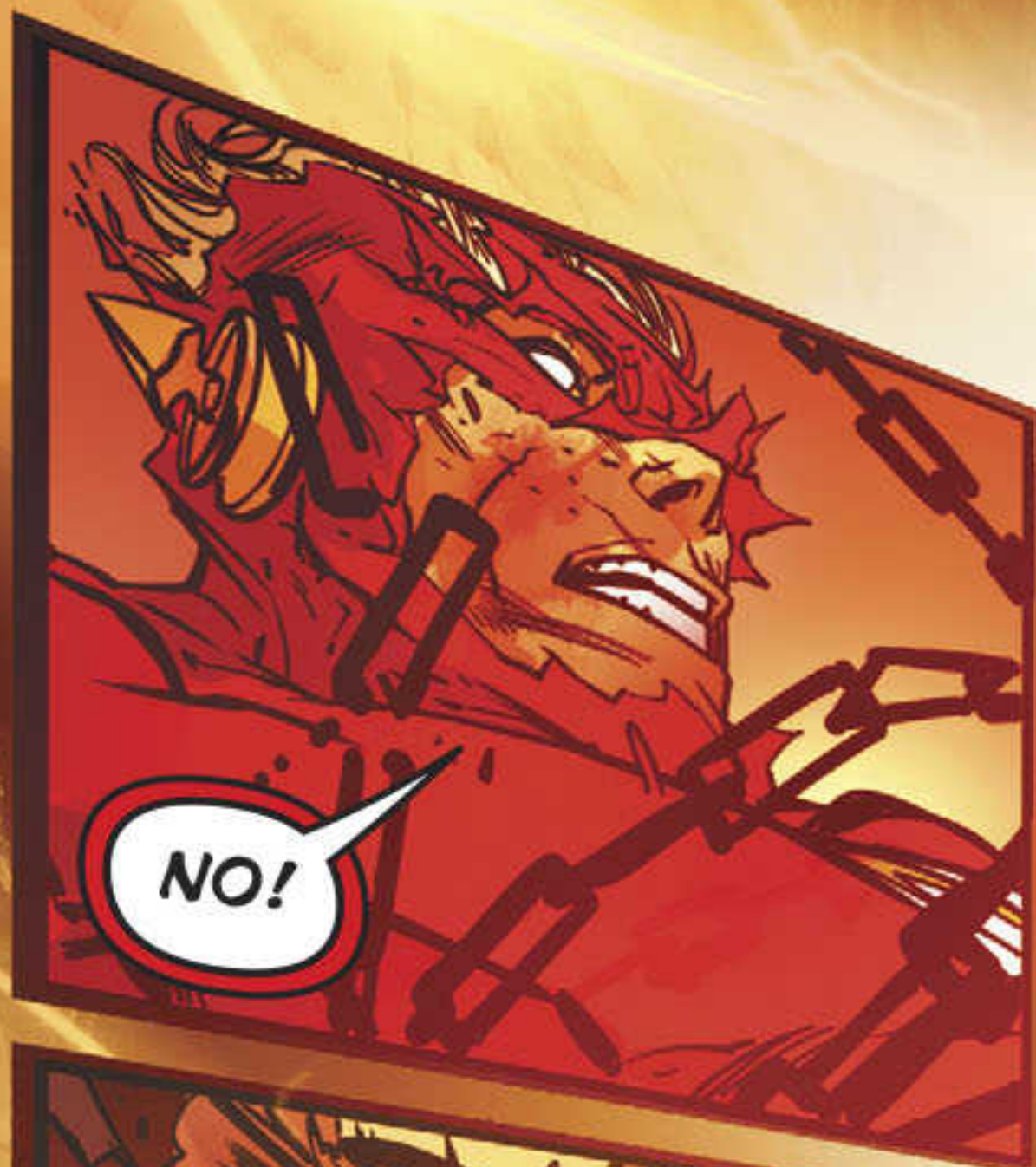
I
KNOW.



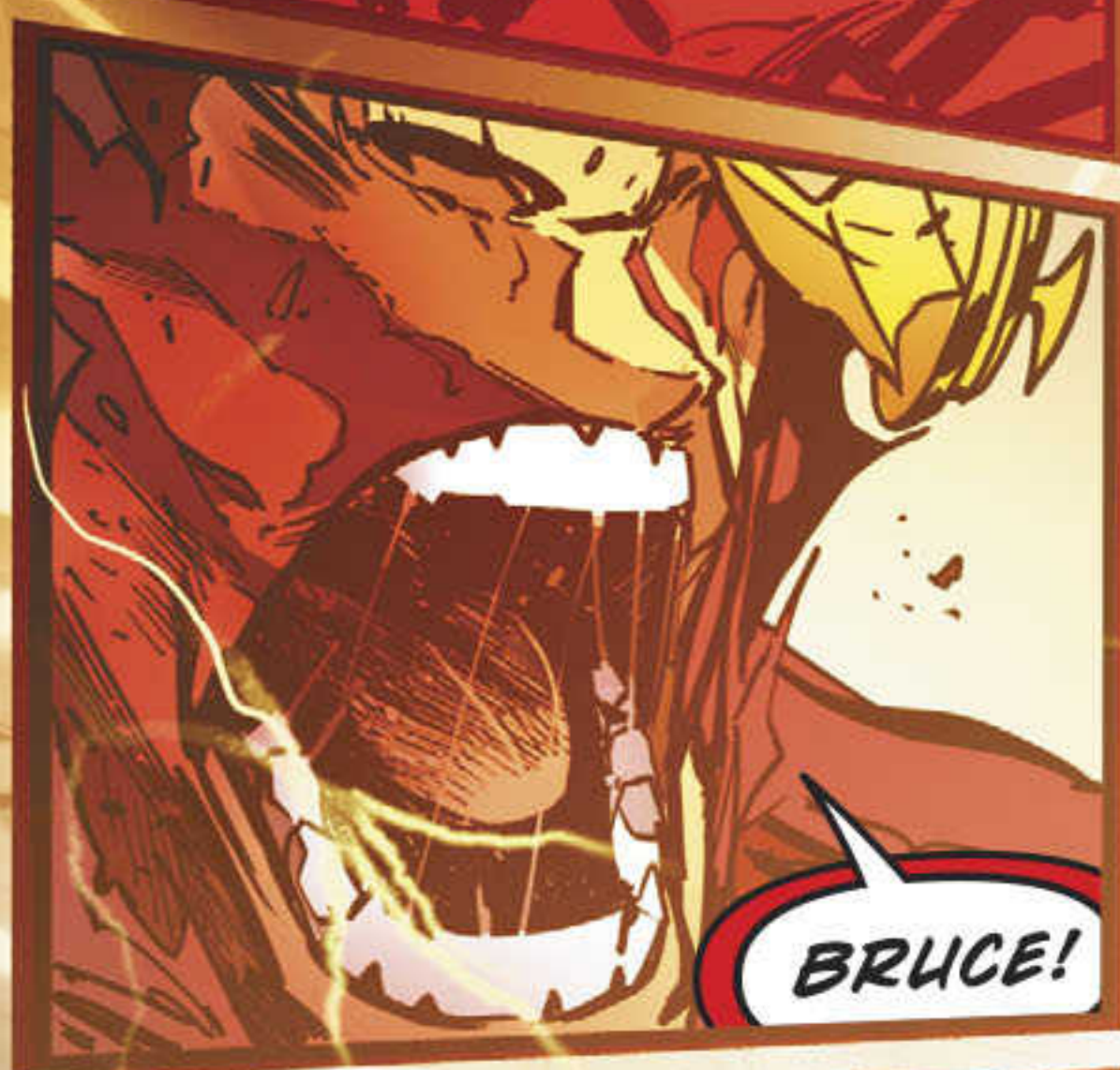
BUT NOW
WE CAN SAVE
THE WORLD...



TOGETHER.



NO!



BRUCE!



YOU
CAN'T GIVE
UP LIKE THIS,
BRUCE...



THERE IS...
ALWAYS...



I'M
SORRY,
BARRY.



PLEASE!



TH-THERE'S
HOPE...



Gotham City.

EVER SINCE THE RED SKIES APPEARED, CRIME HAS ESCALATED AT AN UNHEARD-OF RATE IN GOTHAM WITH NO SIGNS OF SLOWING DOWN!

BEGIN EVACUATION PROCEDURES IMMEDIATELY.

RIOTS! LOOTING!

WE NEED BACKUP! NOW!

WORST CRIME WAVE IN GOTHAM CITY HISTORY!

THE BACKUP IS DEAD!

IT'S TIME WE BLOW UP THE BRIDGES AND TURN IT INTO A NO-MAN'S-LAND AND FINALLY...

KILL GOTHAM OFF ONCE AND FOR ALL!

THIS WAY! I KNOW A BACK WAY OUT OF DOWNTOWN!

I'M SO SCARED!

WHAT YOU'RE EXPERIENCING IS A FORM OF THANATOPHOBIA.

A PARTICULARLY HARSH CASE OF THE DOOMSDAY BLUES.

IT'S PERFECTLY NATURAL IN TIMES LIKE THESE, BUT LET SCARECROW ASSURE YOU...

THE END IS NOTHING TO BE AFRAID OF.

TRUST ME...

I'M A DOCTOR.



MY NAME IS
BRUCE WAYNE.

NO, BRUCE!

I AM
VENGEANCE.

STOP!

I AM
JUSTICE.

DON'T!

I AM...



BATMAN
THE RED DEATH

PLEASE!

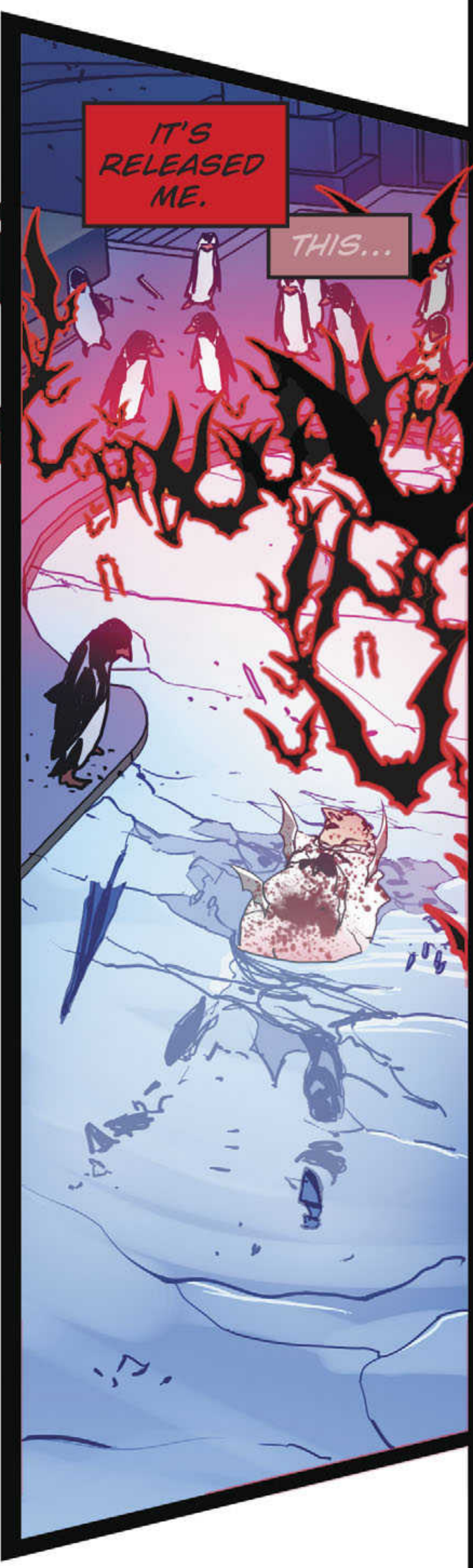


BEFORE I USED TO SPEND SO MUCH TIME ALONE ON ROOFTOPS DWELLING ON MY ACTIONS...

DON'T...

BUT NOW I DON'T HAVE TIME TO THINK TWICE WITH THE SPEED FORCE.

DO...



IT'S RELEASED ME.

THIS...



I HAVE SAVED GOTHAM.

PLEASE...



NOW I WILL SAVE OUR WORLD.

LISTEN...

I FINALLY HAVE ALL THE TIME I'LL EVER NEED...

...TO ME...



WAYNE TOWER... IS FALLING?! WHAT IS...



...HAPPENING?

THE SKY...



THE WORLD...IT'S
BREAKING
APART.

I'M
NOT FAST
ENOUGH TO
SAVE IT.



THERE IS A PART OF ME...
SOMETHING DEEP INSIDE
THAT STILL GIVES ME
HOPE THAT I CAN SAVE
THIS WORLD...

HNH...EVEN
IF IT MEANS THE
DESTRUCTION OF
ANOTHER?



BRUCE!!!
IT'S BARRY!
STAY AWAY FROM
HIM! DON'T
LISTEN...



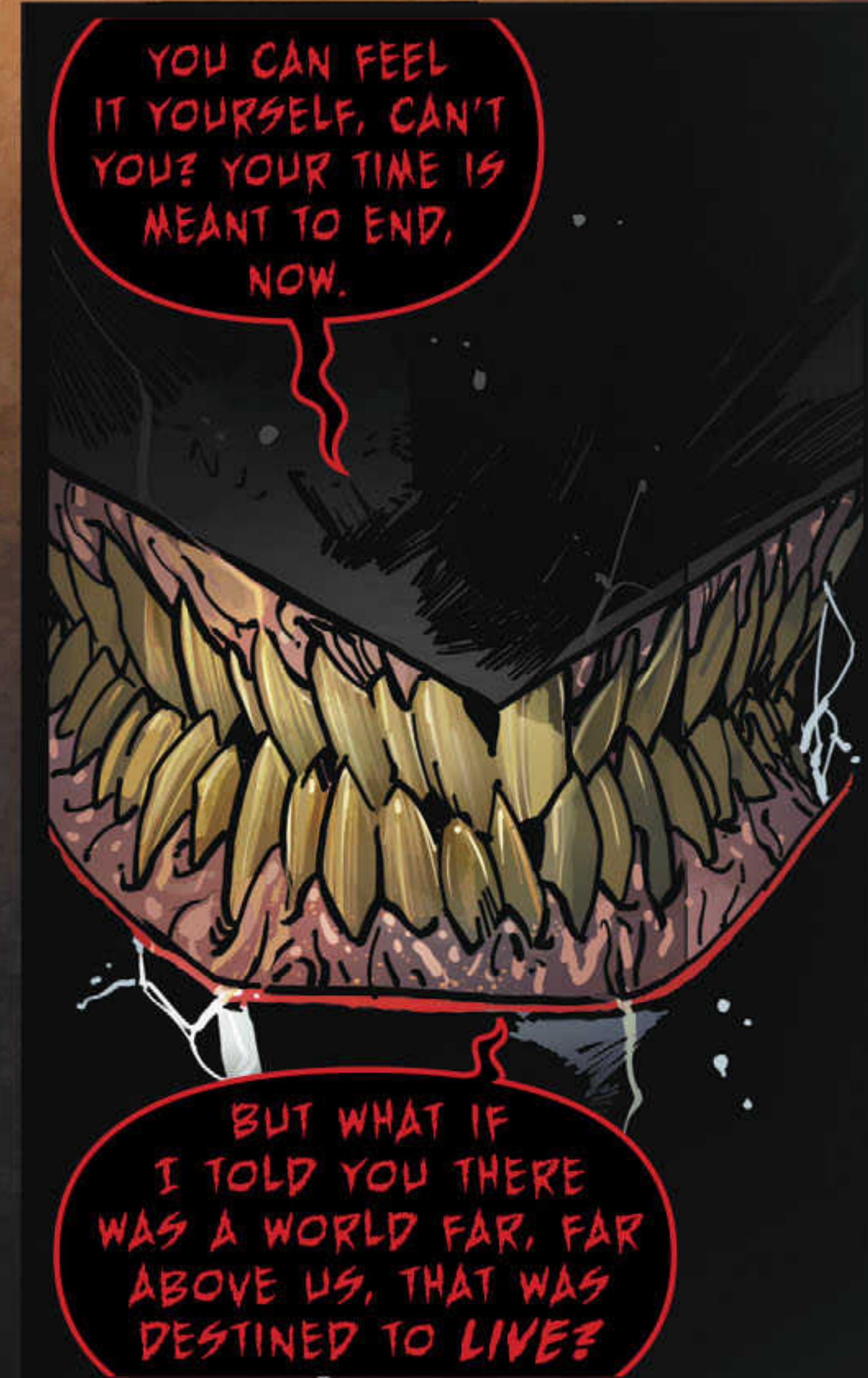
WHO...
WHAT ARE
YOU?

SOMEONE
VERY MUCH LIKE YOU.
SOMEONE WHO LOST HIS
WORLD SIMPLY BECAUSE
IT WAS BORN DOWN HERE.



DOWN...?

OUR
WORLDS AREN'T
MEANT TO LAST. THEY
ARE **DESTINED** TO
DIE. IT'S A CRUEL
LAW OF NATURE IN
THIS PLACE.



YOU CAN FEEL
IT YOURSELF, CAN'T
YOU? YOUR TIME IS
MEANT TO END,
NOW.

BUT WHAT IF
I TOLD YOU THERE
WAS A WORLD FAR, FAR
ABOVE US, THAT WAS
DESTINED TO LIVE?



TELL ME
MORE.

MY
MASTER
BARBATOS
SENT ME...

...TO
FIND A FEW GOOD
HEROES WHO COULD
CONQUER THAT WORLD
TO MAKE A HOME FOR
ALL OF US ORPHANED
BY THE DARKNESS.

Earth-0. First World of the Multiverse.

WHAT DO YOU
SAY? DO WE
GOTTA DEAL?

Central City.

THREE DAYS
AFTER CHALLENGERS
MOUNTAIN APPEARED
IN GOTHAM CITY.

THANKS
FOR MEETING
WITH ME, AUNT
IRIS.

IT'S OKAY, WALLY. I'VE
BEEN COVERING THE
INCIDENT IN GOTHAM
AND NEEDED THE
BREAK.

WELL, OFF
THE RECORD, BUT
SUPERMAN SENT A
MESSAGE TO EVERY HERO
TO KEEP AN EYE OUT FOR
BATMAN. EVEN ROBIN
REACHED OUT AND HE
HATES ME.

THAT MEANS
WHATEVER IS GOING
ON IS **REAL
BAD.**

DOUBT BATMAN
WOULD EVER COME
TO CENTRAL
CITY.

TRUE.
WE HAVE
OUR HERO,
RIGHT?

WALLY...

BARRY
SHOULD BE
HERE. WITH
US.

I ASKED
BARRY
FOR SOME
TIME.

WHAT
IF YOU
WAIT TOO
LONG...

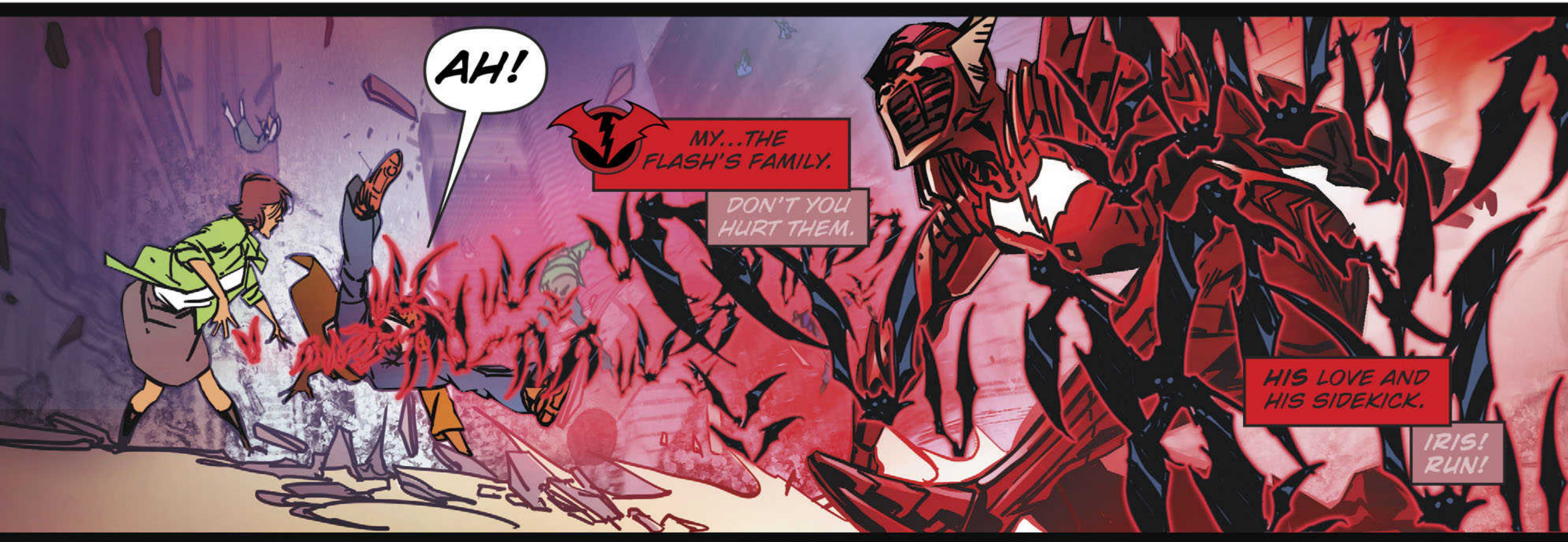
WHAT IS
THAT?

IT
LOOKS
LIKE...



WHAT'S HAPPENING TO THE CITY?!

WHAT ARE THESE BATS--?



AH!

MY...THE FLASH'S FAMILY.
DON'T YOU HURT THEM.

HIS LOVE AND HIS SIDEKICK.

IRIS! RUN!



THE LAST SPEEDSTER WHO HURT MY NEPHEW ENDED UP DEAD.

SO I DON'T CARE HOW SCARY YOUR MASK IS... YOU LEAVE WALLY--

IRIS...?

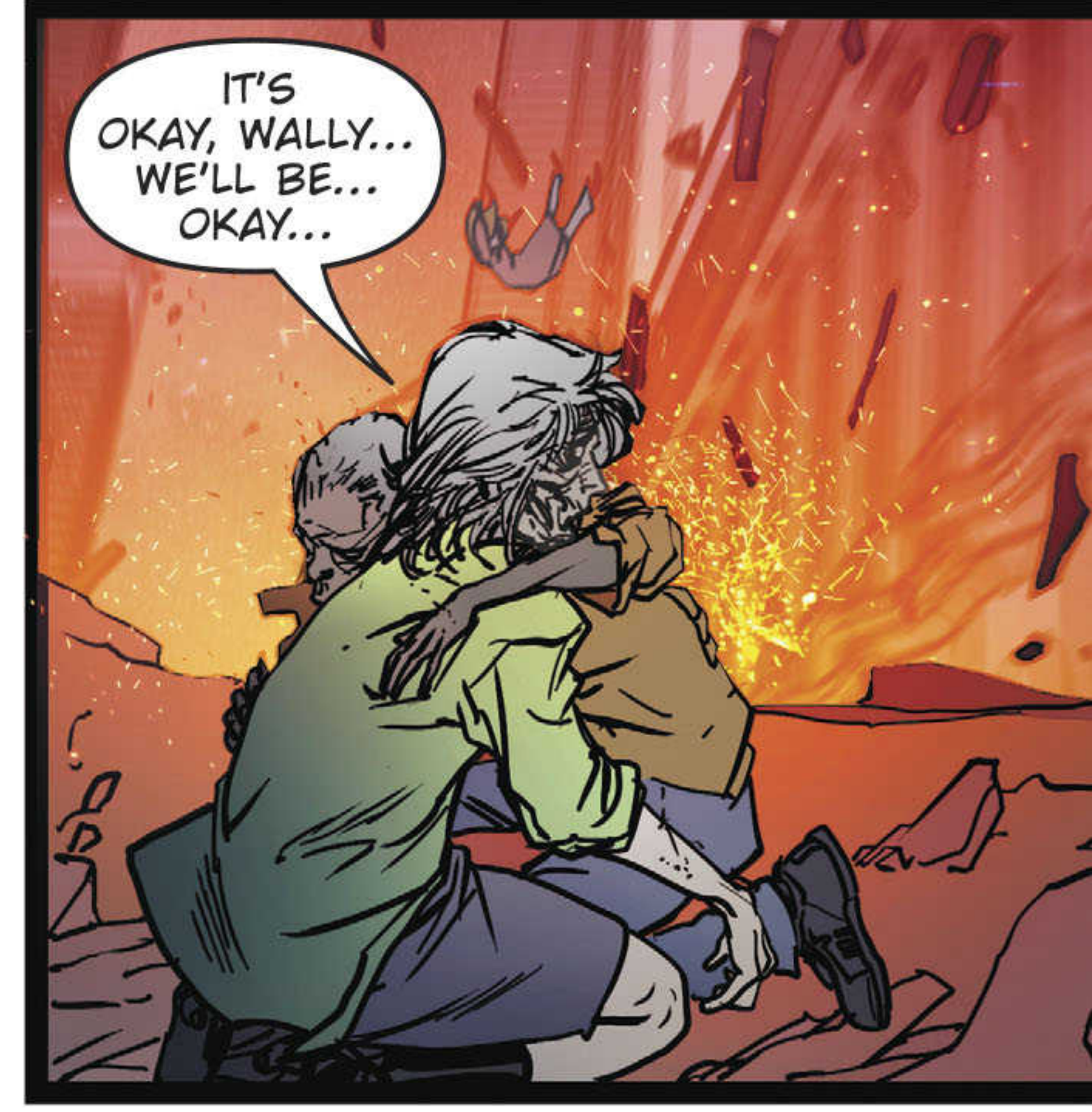


SOMETHING IS WRONG WITH THE SPEED FORCE...I'M SO SLOW...

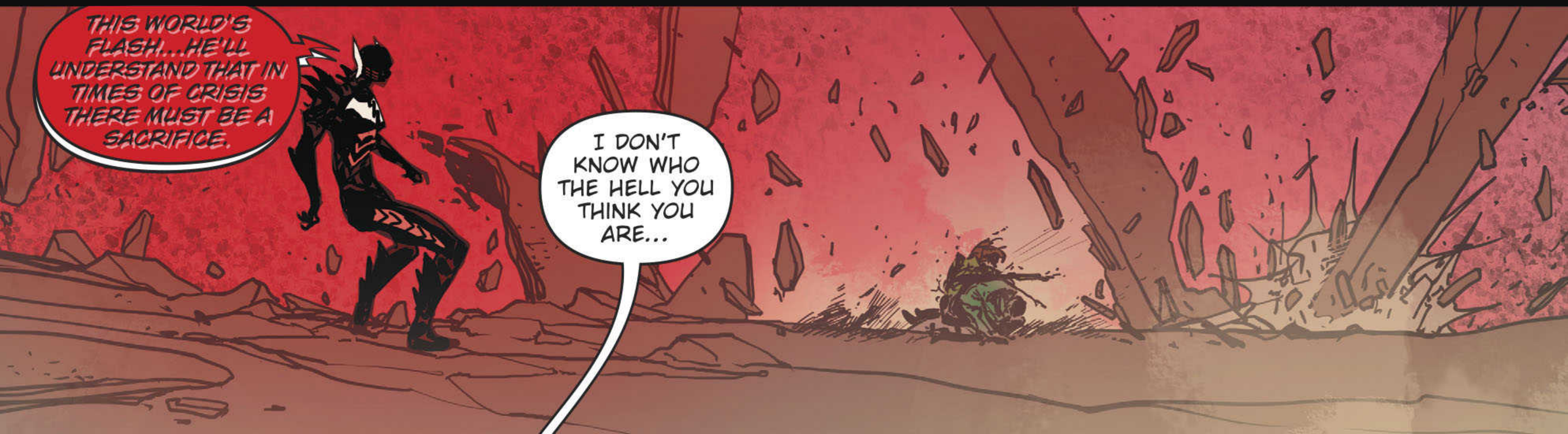


WALLY!

IRIS... YOUR HANDS...



IT'S OKAY, WALLY... WE'LL BE... OKAY...



THIS WORLD'S FLASH...HE'LL UNDERSTAND THAT IN TIMES OF CRISIS THERE MUST BE A SACRIFICE.

I DON'T KNOW WHO THE HELL YOU THINK YOU ARE...



--BUT THERE WON'T BE ANY SACRIFICES IN MY CITY!



RUNNING IS SORT OF MY THING SO THERE'S NO USE TRYING TO ESCAPE!

ONCE UPON A TIME I WAS JEALOUS OF YOURS AND CLARK'S LITTLE RACES...

...BUT NOW IT DOESN'T MATTER!



YOUR DRIFT...THOSE BATS...



...EVERYTHING HURTS...

...FEEL...

...OLD...



THERE WILL BE NO MORE RACING, BARRY.

THAT VOICE...?

BRUCE...?

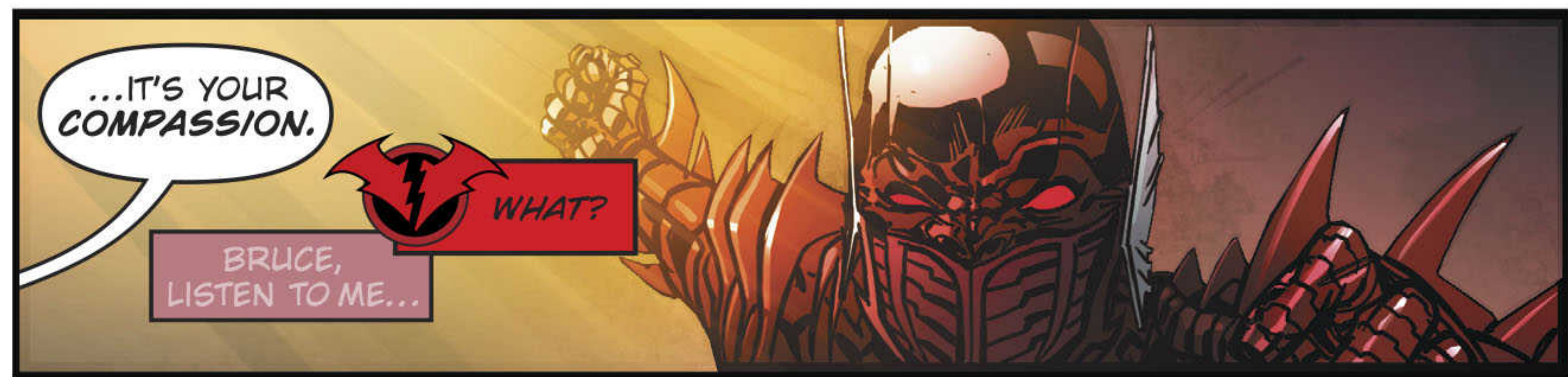
IS THIS... WHAT HAPPENED TO YOU AFTER YOU LEFT BLACKHAWK ISLAND?*

*IN METAL #1 --EDDIE.



IF THERE IS A PART OF YOU INSIDE OF THAT ARMOR, BRUCE...

THEN YOU'RE STILL **MY FRIEND...** AND IF THERE IS ANYTHING I CAN COUNT ON...



...IT'S YOUR **COMPASSION.**

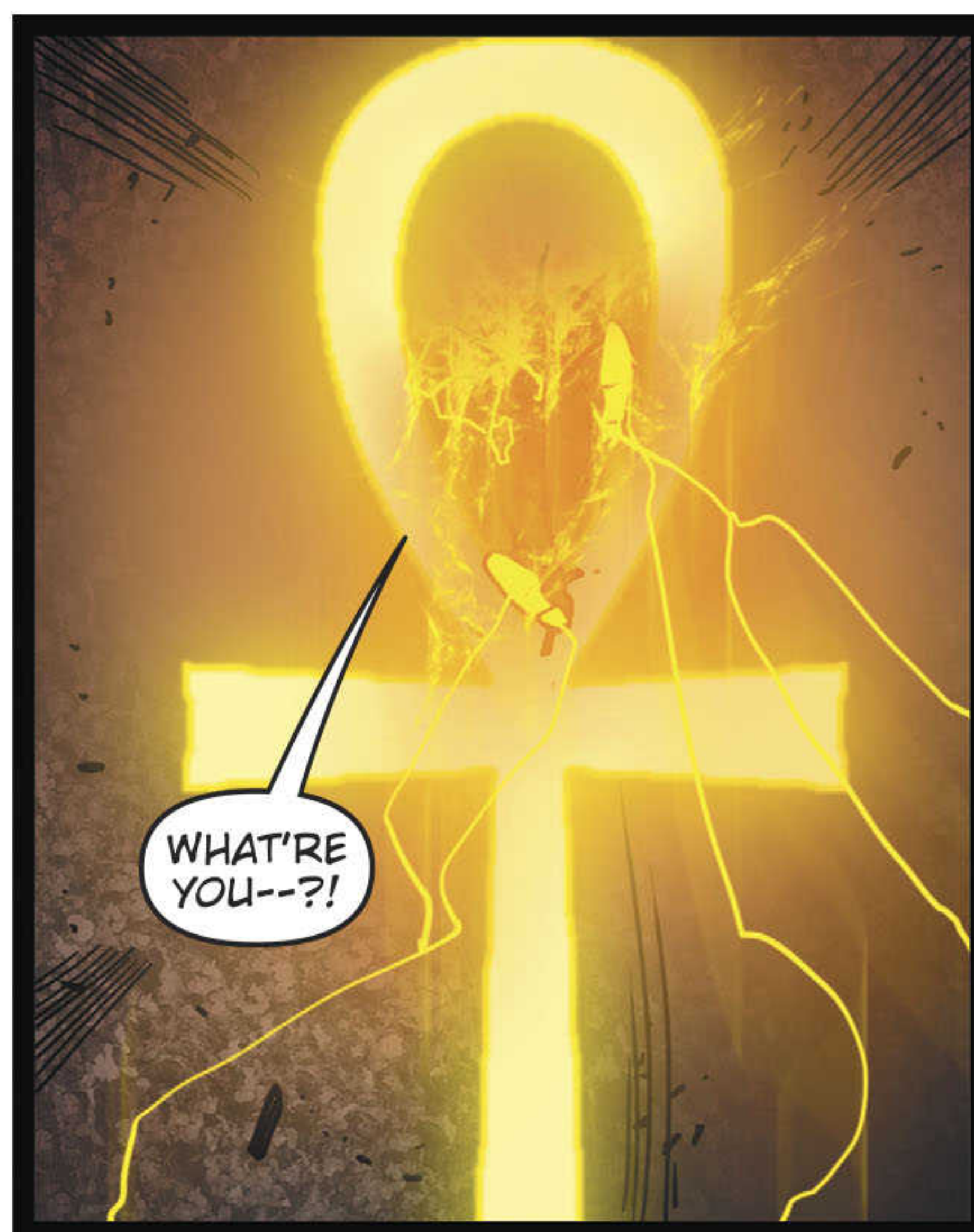
WHAT?

BRUCE, LISTEN TO ME...



QUICKLY.

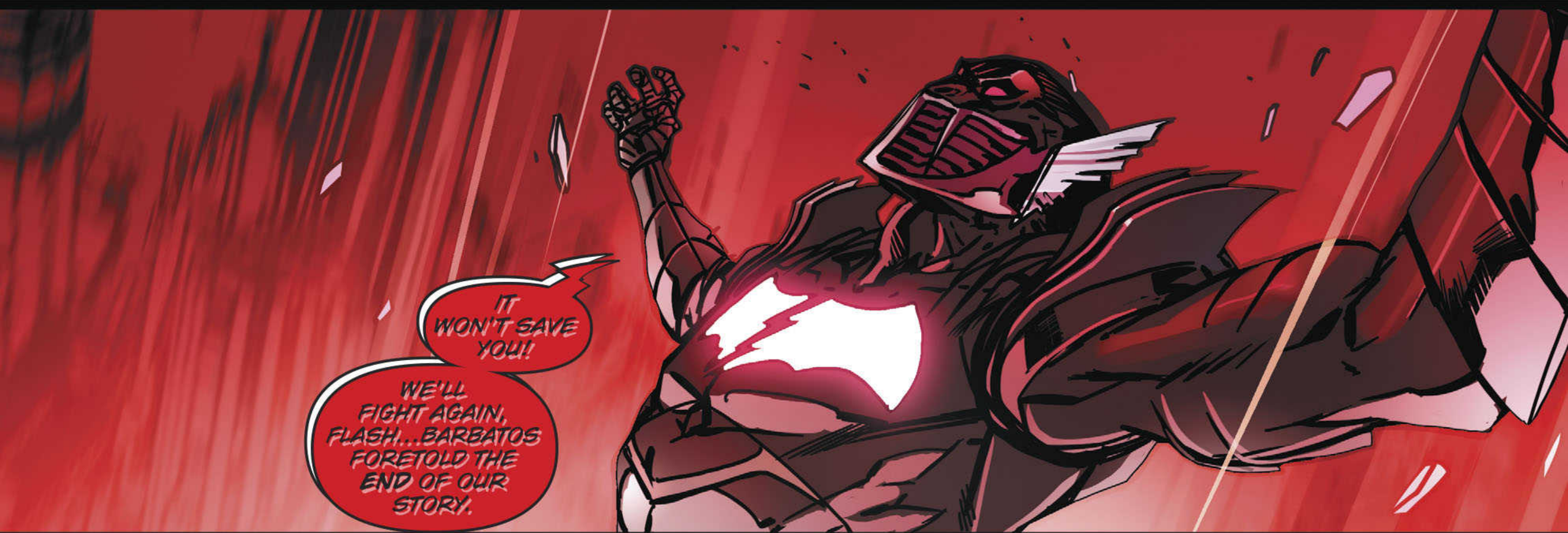
DOCTOR FATE??



WHAT'RE YOU--?!



GO AHEAD. RUN, BARRY. RUN.



IT WON'T SAVE YOU!

WE'LL FIGHT AGAIN, FLASH... BARBATOS FORETOLD THE END OF OUR STORY.



I WILL TURN CENTRAL CITY INTO THE HOME I LOST!

WELCOME TO CENTRAL CITY
HOME OF THE
FLASH

K-9 POLICE



**BRUCE,
NO!**

LET ME TELL YOU A
SECRET. ALL IT TAKES
IS ONE **BAD DAY...**

ONE
MOMENT THAT SHOULD
NEVER HAPPEN. AND THE
GROUND BENEATH YOU
STARTS TO CRUMBLE. TRUST
ME. I KNOW FIRSTHAND.
ALL OF US DO.

AND NOW THE SEVEN
MOST DANGEROUS
BATMEN THAT NEVER
WERE ARE HERE TO
DRAG YOU INTO THE
DARK.



SO YEAH. ONE BAD DAY WILL KILL A WORLD. BUT ONE BAD WEEK?

THAT COULD KILL
A MULTIVERSE.

THE DARK KNIGHTS
CONTINUE TO RISE IN
**MURDER
MACHINE #1**